Grant for the development of Civil Aviation in Maharashtra

2126. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the amount granted to the Government of Maharashtra for the development of Civil Aviation during the Eighth Five Year Plan till-date, scheme-wise; and

(b) the details of development works undertaken in this field for the State during the plan?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No amount is granted by the Union Government to the State Government of Maharashtra for development of civil aviation in the State.

(b) The National Airports Authority and the International Airports Authority of India have taken up upgradation of airports in Aurangabad, Nagpur, Pune and Bombay.

Posts vacant in Air India

2127. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a good number of vacancies in Group 'D' posts (Loader) in the reserved categories of S.T. and OBC have been lying vacant in Air India in its Delhi office and candidates sponsored by the Employment Exchanges have been waiting in queue for their interview/selection since a very long period;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some M.Ps have also written to the concerned Director (HRD) to restore the genuine claims of the long awaited candidates and no fruitful action has been taken as yet;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when all the selection formalities will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) At present 10 posts of Loaders' are vacant, of which 3 are reserved for ST candidates and 7 for OBC candidates. Names were received from Employment Exchange to fill these vacancies and some letters were also received from Hon'ble MPs in this regard. Air India has not filled these posts in view of the award of the Central Government Industrial Tribunal for absorption of casual labourers who have been working with Air India for long periods. There is also a ban on recruitment from outside till the absorption of Vayudoot employees is completed. It is not possible to indicate any definite time frame for the recruitment of loaders at this stage.

Carrying of passengers by Private Airlines vis-a-vis AI and IA

2128. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the past one year, private airlines carried more passengers than IA and AI from Bombay as published in The Pioneer, dated 1st February, 1995;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether Government will advise all official and semi-official agencies to patronise only IA and AI?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The news item refers to traffic statistics relating to carriage of passengers only during the month of December, 1994 from Bombay airport.

(c) Such instructions already exist.

Boost to tourism in Sikkim

2129. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government have permitted the Government of Sikkim to tie-up with a foreign firm to boost tourism in that state;